

Established 1987

First Woodturning Club in New England, AAW #26

Next Meeting  
August 3rd 2017  
6:30 PM

Turning  
Extravaganza

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President's Message July, 2017

President's Letter, July 2017



I am very much looking forward to the Turning Extravaganza at the August meeting. This is the first time in a while when I was not stationed at a lathe and this time I will have the chance to visit all of the other stations. However, once a gain it is the same core group of people manning the lathes. Time after time it is the same core group of people that steps up to help make the extravaganza a success, but in doing so they deprive themselves of the chance to stop at other stations and pick up a trick or two. Please consider volunteering the next time the event comes around. Don't be shy!

As I noted in my prior message, I will not be in town for the Arnold Arboretum show in October. Rick as taken the lead on this and that is a load off my mind. Here are some of the basic details:

The selection of items will occur at the September meeting

No items that have been in the show in prior years are eligible for submission

Members are limited to three items per person for voting. However, items such as nested bowls are counted as one item, as would a salt and pepper grinder set

Voting will be with pennies. Bring only 30 pennies to the September meeting and remember that the maximum number of pennies you can use to vote for a particular item is four. The six items gathering the highest votes will be submitted to the Arboretum staff who will arrange them in the display cases. Those items will be on display from mid-September to just after Thanksgiving

The other items for the show will be delivered to the arboretum a couple of days prior to the show and will be removed at 5:00 PM on the Sunday of the show

The items you submit need to have an index card on which is the name of the piece (if any), the type(s) of wood, the name of the turner, the name of the club, if the wood is from the Arboretum and a selling price (if any)

Once again, the Arboretum is hoping to receive donated turnings to be used in their raffle. The proceeds from the raffle are to support their artist in residence program. If you can donate a turning made from wood from the Arboretum, all the better.

More details will be provided at the August and September meetings. If you have a burning question email Rick or me.

That is all for now, be well,

Joe

PS. I retract my pervious comment about Drew Pomeranz.



## Minutes July 6th, 2017 Meeting

**Mike Smith, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by President Joe McGill.

- There were 28 members and 2 guests in attendance.
- The treasurer's report was read and accepted.
- A motion was made and approved to spend \$350.00 for a mobile base for the big lathe.
- A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$250.00 to install wifi in the meeting room.
- A motion was made and approved to purchase a drill chuck for the tool kit.
- V.P. Rick Angus discussed the recent Dogwood festival which the club participated in. Although the event was not as big as expected it was recommended that the club continue to support it. It is hoped that with time this could become a great event for the club.
- The August turning extravaganza was discussed and there will be 7 lathes and 1 sharpening station set up. There will be a variety of things at each station for the membership to try.
- If you need help with your sharpening skills bring your tools and get some instruction on sharpening. It is always a fun night and I encourage everyone to attend. There will also be light refreshments so come one come all and bring a friend.
- The annual exhibit at the Arnold Arboretum is set for October 13,14,15 2017. If you would to participate please bring your latest turnings to the September meeting as we will vote that night to pick the pieces to be entered into the show. More details to follow.
- Old Sturbridge Village is looking for someone to demonstrate wood turning in September. If you are interested contact Erik White.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Mike Smith Secretary

**My apology, once again this month we have no pictures from "Show'n Tell" due to no photographer at last months meeting.**

***"Show'n tell"***

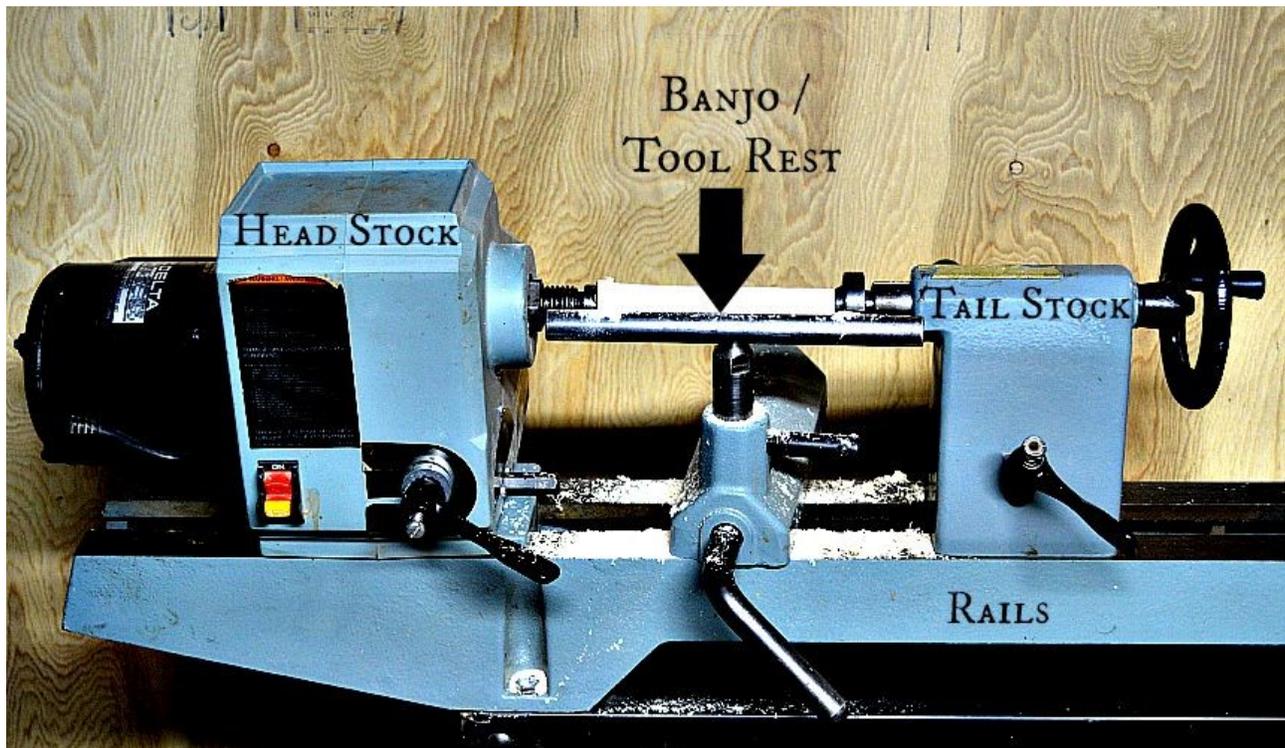
## How to Maintain Your Wood Lathe

I'm going to run through a maintenance schedule from daily to quarterly just to make sure everything is running great. What will need to be done will depend on your machine, how often you turn, and what type of turning you do. Turning green wood will create conditions that promote rust on your rails that seasoned turning won't so adjust the maintenance to suit you.

### Every time you turn on your wood lathe

1. Eye ball the main parts of the wood lathe, head stock, tool rest, and tail stock. Are they in the right position? Has the tool rest been knocked out of place? Even in a one person shop I've bumped the tool rest and moved it into the work I was going to turn.
2. Is the wood still secure on the lathe? Check your chuck for bowls and your tail stock for between center work. Loose wood on the lathe is not a good idea.
3. Does the work spin clear on the lathe? Always turn your wood by hand to ensure that everything is clear and the wood can spin freely.
4. Remove any clutter about the lathe. Check not only where you are turning but around your feet as well. You don't want to trip as you are making a long cut on a table leg.

These are good habits to protect yourself and to keep from damaging your wood lathe.



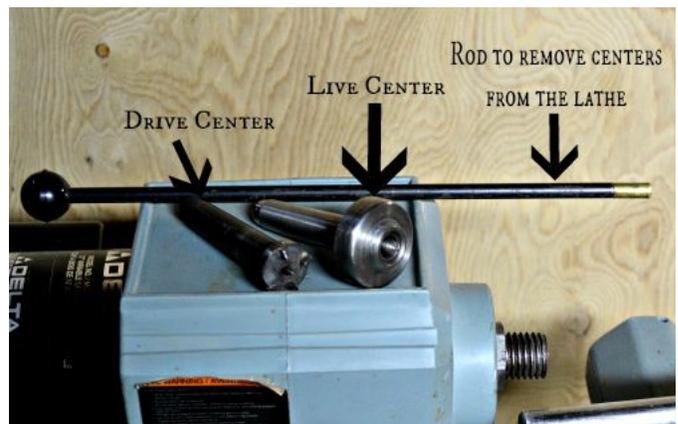
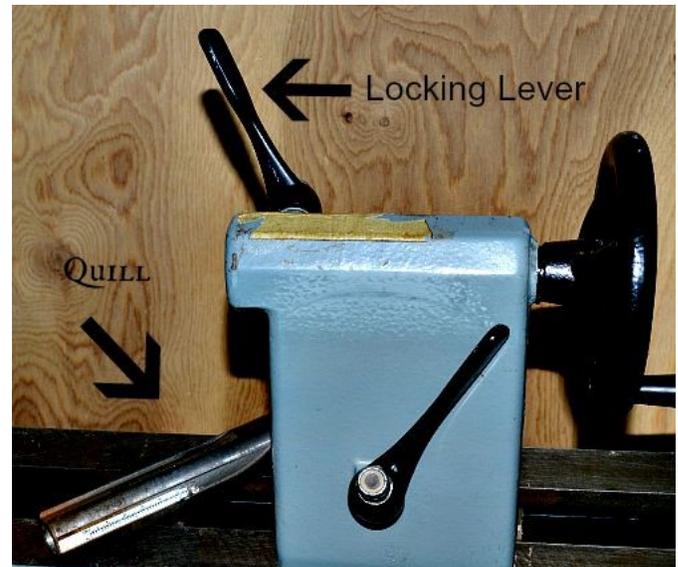
## Daily Routine

Each day that you turn you should clean out the two Morse tapers (head stock and tail stock). This will make sure your drive spur and live center will seat securely and with proper alignment. Any debris in the taper will push the points out of alignment which will affect your turning. This is more critical the smaller and finer your work is, such as a delicate finial. I use an old toothbrush but you can also buy a [Morse Taper cleaner](#).

- Smooth down and wax your tool rest. This keeps the edge smooth rather than bumpy which will improve your long cuts on your turning.
- Wipe down and silicon the ways, or rails, of your wood lathe. While some people wax the rails this could lead to debris build up. A silicon spray reduces the friction of the banjo and the tail stock so that you can easily move them across the lathe.
- Take that old toothbrush and clean the head stock threads. This is what holds your faceplates secure. Again we want a good snug fit that will maintain alignment with the tail stock so get rid of any sawdust or debris on the threads.
- At the end of the day, brush off your wood lathe and sweep up your shavings. This will maintain a clean and safe place for your work.

## Weekly Routine

- Use a metal file (Mill or bastard) to smooth down the top of your tool rest. Your turning tools are usually harder steel than your tool rest so over time the tools can dent and nick your tool rest. Do long, even, and smooth strokes. A little bit on a weekly basis will keep the surface smooth and easy to work with.
- Remove the quill (the inside part of your tail stock) and smooth out any rough spots with a file or sand paper. You want to keep your locking screw on the inside of the slot on your quill. This will keep your quill stationary and secure. It is easy (I know!) to have the quill turn so that the locking screw is now on the quill barrel instead of in the slot. This does not hold the work as securely and can mar the barrel of the quill hence the maintenance check. If you have to turn the locking lever really tight to hold steady it is probably out of place. Lubricate the quill with some silicon as well. Use the toothbrush on the interior quill housing then put everything back.
- With a drive spur in the head stock and a live center in the tail stock, bring the tail stock up to the head stock and check the alignment. You need to check both horizontally and vertically. This is where I found out a little debris in the tail stock taper affects your positions. If your head stock rotates you may need a [double ended Morse taper](#) to completely center your lathe. A shim under your tail stock or tightening the hex nuts on your locking mechanism will give you a snug lock and good alignment.
- Use compressed air to blow out your electric motor. This will reduce overheating and extend the life of your motor.



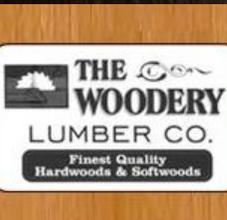
## Quarterly Maintenance

- Banjo/Tailstock check. Take both items off of the wood lathe and flip them over. Blow / wipe off any debris or sawdust. Check the areas that travel along the rails and make sure they are smooth and clean. If needed file them to remove nicks or rough spots. Replace on the lathe.
- Check the Nylock nut on your headstock, banjo and tail stock. These nuts are crucial to holding these parts in place. If they are loose tighten about a ¼ turn and check for fit. If they become stripped from over tightening you can get replacements at your local hardware store.
- Drive belts. Unplug your wood lathe first! This applies to lathes where you move the belt to change the speed and to variable speed lathes. If you have to move the belts to change speed then open up the access doors and specifically examine the belts. Is there any wear or cracks? On a variable speed lathe you will have to remove the cover over the drive mechanism and check the belt that way.
- Electrical review. Use compressed air to blow out switches, motors, and capacitors. Check all visible wires for cracking, melting, or other signs of wear. How is the plug on your wood lathe? Look along the electrical cord as well. It is too easy for another tool or stand to be placed on the electrical cord and damage it. If it is damaged replace it or have it fixed by an electrician.



A wood lathe that is well maintained and tuned will be a joy to use and safer as well. Don't forget to put everything back together. For more tips like this please sign up for my email newsletter.

*Quality Imported  
& Domestic Hardwoods and Softwoods*



You'll find almost **50 species** of domestic and imported woods, rough or milled, for the most demanding projects. From Ash to Zebrawood, we've got the lumber for cabinet makers and hobbyists alike.

## How to Make a High-Gloss Finish While Turning on a Lathe with Friction Polish



There are a lot of good friction polishes that create a nice, clear finish on both natural wood and wood that's already been stained.

I just can't deny it — I am an instant gratification sort of woodworker. So, when I am looking for a clear finish on my turned pieces — and I predominantly turn bowls — I almost always reach for a friction polish. They are easy to apply, build up quickly and look great.

### What's a Friction Polish?

A friction polish is designed to be applied to wood and then burnished to make the product flow — to be smoothed out over the prepared surface. Burnishing (rubbing vigorously with a cloth or piece of ultra-fine steel wool) can be hard work on a flat piece of wood. But it's pretty easy if the wood is spinning on a lathe. For that reason, friction polish is a real favorite for turners. Common formulas for friction polish feature a combination of shellac and a wax of some type. They can be formulated in a liquid or found in bar form — like the widely used HUT™ Products Bar.

There are a couple of ways to apply a liquid friction polish. You can wipe on a light coat while the piece is stationary on the lathe (or off of the tool), then spin the piece and use a cloth dampened with the polish to smooth out and flow the finish evenly across the piece. This is an instance where light applications are better than heavy coats.

As a “plunge right in there” type, I prefer the second method: applying the finish with a soft cloth right to the spinning bowl. I use a moderately fast speed and just wipe it on. I like to have a strong directional light aimed at the piece, so I can see the change as I apply the product.

Different brands of friction polish vary a bit as to the proper mode of application — so read their instructions and experiment in order to get your best results.



Apply the friction polish to your bowl as it turns on the lathe, here, the friction and turning motion will help spread and polish the piece.



The friction polish, once it is applied, will create a very high gloss finish on both fresh pieces, like this maple bowl, and pre-stained woods.

Central New England Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



**Officers for 2017**

- President:** Joe McGill , Sudbury, MA 978-443-5322, joemcgill96@gmail.com
- External VP:** Rick Angus, Moosup, CT 860-564-3660, rick.angus@gmail.com
- Internal VP:** Steve Reznik, Concord MA 978-287-4821, stevenreznik@gmail.com
- Treasurer:** Todd Heino, Natick MA 508-736-1117, tvheino@comcast.net
- Secretary:** Mike Smith, Hopkinton MA 508-435-4715, whitehallwt@verizon.net
- Newsletter Editor:** Paul Occhipinti, Princeton, MA. 774+641+7301, pocchipinti@missione4.com
- Photographer:** Fraser MacMannis, Mendon, MA. 508-244-2707 fmacmannis@gmail.com
- Librarian:** Roger Boisvert, Fitchburg, MA. 978-852-2636, rogerboisvert48@gmail.com
- Project Goodwill Coord:** Charlie Croteau, Worcester MA 508-756-2049, cpcroteau@verizon.net
- Woodturning Sales:** Reid Gilmore, Upton MA 508-603-1248, reid.gilmore@umassmed.edu
- Learn 'N Turn Coord:** Richard Hunt, Auburn MA 508-832-4425, rhrghunt@gmail.com
- Videographer:** Bob Pacini, Holliston, MA 508-429-7759, rpcpo78@msn.com
- Club Store Manager:** Kevin Nee, W. Boylston MA 508-835-4301, kpni@charter.net
- Big Name Demo Coord:** Rick Angus, Moosup, CT 860-564-3660, rick.angus@gmail.com
- Club Project Coord:** Steve Reznik, Concord MA 978-287-4821, stevenreznik@gmail.com
- Membership:** Ralph Viscomi, Boylston, MA. 617-513-1680, rviscomi1@verizon.net
- Webmaster:** Dominic Ryan, Littleton, Ma. 617-347-1383, m.dominic.ryan@gmail.com



**Membership**

To join or renew membership, please complete the form below and a check made payable to CNEW and bring it to a CNEW meeting, or pay

online at the CNEW website under "join/renew" or mail to: Treasurer, Central New England Woodturners

c/o Todd Heino, 148 Howe St, Natick, MA 01760

**Membership Application**

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Treasurer, Central New England Woodturners

c/o Todd Heino  
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Natick, MA 01760

Annual dues: \$40 including e-mail delivery of newsletter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriately below

New Member

Returning Member

e-Mail Newsletter (\$40.00)

Please let us know of your interests:

How long have you been turning? \_\_\_\_\_

What programs would you like to see at meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to demonstrate at a meeting? Yes/No If so, what topics do you offer? \_\_\_\_\_